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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT

50X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 21 October 1955

SUBJECT Border Guard and Army Order of Battle
and Installations

NO. OF PAGES 30

DATE OF INFORMATION

50X1

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

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Summary

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This report gives [redacted] order of battle information on Czechoslovak Army and Border Guard Units known to him. They include nine Czechoslovak Border Guard brigades, the Main Administration of Border Guards in Prague, and subordinate units of his own parent unit, the 10th Volary Border Brigade. Attached annexes include sketches of buildings and installations occupied by battalion, brigade and higher level units, the location of observation towers and other border guarding installations along the sector of the Czechoslovak-West German border covered by source's brigade, and types of observation towers and border fences known to source.

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SECRET**CZECHOSLOVAK ORDER OF BATTLE AND INSTALLATIONS****A. ORDER OF BATTLE**

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1. Border Guard Units

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Main Administration of Border Guards	Ministry of Interior	Prague	See Annex A for a sketch and description of the building occupied by this installation. CO was unknown to source. He had no further information.
10th Volary Border Brig of the Ministry of Interior or PS Utver (unit) Volary 8237	Main Administration of Border Guards, Ministry of Interior, Prague	Volary (N 48-55, E 13-53), Nedrasni Ulice	

	<u>Total</u>
Headquarters. 50 officers	75
25 NCO's	
NCO School	250
Reserve of Heavy	50
Weapons Unit.	
3 battalions. 8.	300
20 companies 1.3 officers each	960
Grand Total:	1,635

On 1 Jun 55 a fourth battalion of the brigade, (then designated the 2d Bn and located in Kunstvert) (N 48-54, E 13-42), was dissolved and its personnel assigned to the various brigade line companies

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<u>Unit</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
U/i B order Brig Hq	Main Administration of Border Guards, Ministry of Interior, Prague	Ceske Budejovice	<p>The operations area assigned to the brigade extended along the Czechoslovak-West German and Czechoslovak-Austrian frontiers, from approximately 60 km north of Tristolie Mountain (48-44, E 19-31) to about 20 km south of this mountain. Concerning equipment, the heaviest brigade weapon was the Soviet 82-mm mortar. The brigade also had 10 Tatra-111 trucks and about 50 Skoda-Tudor passenger cars.</p> <p>See Annex B for a sketch and description of the Brig Hq and Annexes C, D and E for the respective sketches and descriptions of the 2d, 3d and 1st battalions of this brigade. See Annex F-1 for a sketch of the border area guarded by this brigade.</p>
			<p>Prague, showed that there was a total of eight other brigades. He believed that all these other brigades were organized more or less</p>
			<p>He could not explain why the latter was designated the 10th if there were only eight other brigades; although he added that the brigades were in any event not numbered consecutively as far as he knew, but he guessed that the first designation number was perhaps assigned to the Main Administration of Border Guards in Prague, since he had never heard of a 1st Border Brig.</p>

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<u>Unit</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
U/i Border Brig Hq	Same as above	Susice (N 49-14, E 13-31)	
U/i Border Brig Hq	Same as above	Bratislava	
U/i Border Brig Hq	Same as above	Snajmo (N 48-53, E 16-05)	headquarters above.
U/i Border Brig Hq	Same as above	Pobesovice (N 49-31, E 12-48)	Same as above.
U/i Border Brig Hq	Same as above	As (N 50-13, E 12-11)	Same as above.
U/i Border Brig Hq	Same as above	Cheb (N 50-04, E 12-22)	Same as above.
U/i Border Brig Hq	Same as above	Decin (N 50-47, E 14-13)	Same as above.

2. Other Security Units

U/i Interior Guard units	U/i Army (?) units	Ceske Budejovice and Pilsen
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the Interior Guards were subordinate to the Army because he had observed during the 1955 May Day parade in Prague that Interior Guard and Army units were marching together while Border Guard units were marching separately. He thought that this alleged subordination dated from Jan 55. Before that month,

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<u>Unit</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
			the title of the brigade's parent unit had been "Main Administration of Border Guards and Interior Guards, Ministry of Interior", while after Jan 55 the title was changed to read. "Main Administration
3. <u>Army Units</u>			
U/i Auxiliary Technical Bn (PTP)	Unk	Winterberg (N 49-03, E 13-47)	This unit had from 80 to 100 military personnel.
Unk Training Area	U/i Army unit	Boletice (N 48-49, E 14-13)	This was a large training area containing a firing range and artillery range for Border Guard and Army personnel. Source was never there but saw it from the railroad. He also heard that combined maneuvers of Border Guard, Army and even Air Force units took place here all year long and that heavy weapons and tanks were used here.
Unk Training Area	U/i Army unit	Srni (N 49-05, E 13-29)	Was a training area similar to the one described above but even larger. This training was supported by Army and Air Force units.

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<u>Unit</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>
U/1 Soviet Border Guard Training School	Unk	Moscow, the USSR

supposed to learn Soviet border guard methods at this school. 5. Czech officers were

1. [] Comment: [] 19 companies subordinate to the Brigade's three battalions: these are pinpointed and described in Annexes B, C, D and E. The twentieth company, located in Kyselov (N 48-41, E 14-04), had been subordinate to the unidentified brigade at Ceske Budejovice until its transfer [] in Apr and May 55.


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Annexes:

- 50X1 **Annex A** - [REDACTED] Building Occupied by Main Administration of Border Guards, Ministry of Interior, Prague
- 50X1 **Annex B** - [REDACTED] Headquarters Area, 10th Volary Border Brig of the Ministry of Interior
- Annex C** - [REDACTED] Installations of 2d Bn, 10th Volary Border Brig
- Annex D** - [REDACTED] Installations of 3d Bn, 10th Volary Border Brig
- 50X1 **Annex E** - [REDACTED] Installations of 1st Bn, 10th Volary Border Brig
- Annex F-I and F-II** - Pinpoint Location of the 20 Companies of 10th Volary Border Brig
- [REDACTED] Czechoslovak-West German and Czechoslovak-Austrian Border Sector Guarded by the 20 Companies of 10th Volary Border Brig

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Annex F-III	-		Electrically-Charged Barbed Wire Border Guarding Device	50X1
Annex F-IV	-		Typical Installation Occupied by a Border Company	
Annex F-V	-		Typical Border Observation Tower	
Annex G	-		Dog-training School of 10th Veterinary Border Brig	

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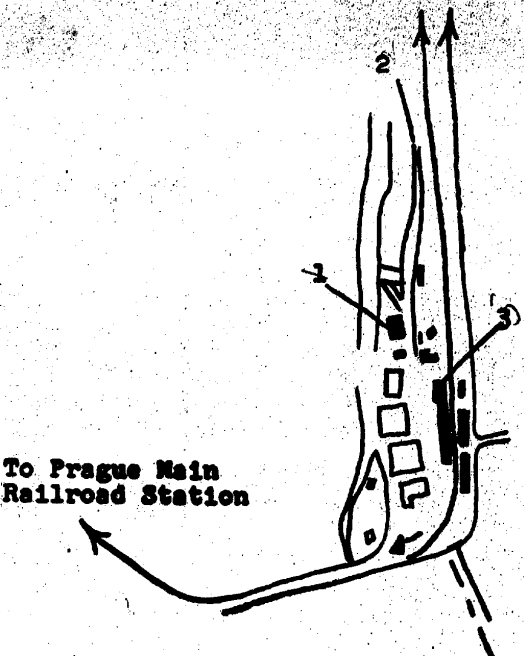


Building Occupied by Main Administration of
Border Guards, Ministry of the Interior, Prague

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(Not to Scale)

Annex A



Map Ref:
Non-Standard Map 1:13,500
Prague

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Date of Info:
Basis of Info:

[Redacted box]



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Annex A

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Building Occupied by Main Administration of Border Guards,
Ministry of Interior, Prague

LEGEND:

1. Headquarters, Main Administration of Border Guards, Ministry of Interior in Prague. This building was located on Railroad Station Street about 200 m from the Smichov Station. The headquarters was located in a reddish-brown four-story brick building with white Eternit roof, about 50 x 30 m, which was guarded day and night by one guard and one door-man. At the entrance was a brass sign showing the full name of the installation as mentioned above. [redacted] the third floor of the building was occupied by the Intelligence Section for the entire Czech Border Guard.?
2. Railroad Station Street
3. Smichov (suburb of Prague) Railroad Station

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Annex B

50X1

Headquarters, 10th Volary Border Brigade of the Ministry
of Interior

Note: All distances and dimensions are approximate. All blds, unless otherwise stated, were of white brick construction. All barbed wire fences, unless otherwise indicated, were 1½ m high and consisted of seven wires.

LEGEND:

1. Headquarters of the 10th Volary Border Brigade: a new 3-story bldg, about 40 x 20 m, the construction of which was terminated in 1952. The roof was of red tile. The bldg contained 33 offices. There were 2 entrances to the bldg, a and b. These were guarded from 1900 to 0400 hours by one guard circling the bldg.
2. Bldg housing Intelligence Section of the 10th Volary Border Brigade and a mess hall: 2-story, with red tiled roof, about 25 x 15 m. There were 2 outside doors, a and b. The ground floor housed the kitchen and the mess hall for officers and NCO's. The second floor housed the Intelligence Section proper, comprising 4 officers (including source) and 2 NCO's who occupied five rooms. This bldg was not guarded, although the guard mentioned in item 1 above kept an eye on it. The Intelligence Section functioned 24 hours a day, and the bldg was always open.
3. Heavy Weapons or Reserve Unit (Zalozni Oddiel)
 - 3a. 3-story bldg known by the name "Technolen", with red roof, about 40 x 15 m, contained heavy weapons: 3 Soviet 82 mm mortars, 3 Soviet HMG's, 3 Soviet LMG's, 3 u/1 bazookas and other small arms belonging to this unit. This unit was supposed to reinforce border companies in case of an emergency. This bldg housed about 3 officers and 100 EM. It also contained a training school teaching the personnel of this unit the use of the above-mentioned crew-served weapons. The heavy-weapons unit also furnished every day 10 soldiers detailed to guard the ammunition warehouses (see point 10 below) for 24 hours and another 9 men to guard installation 1 above and 7 and 9 below for 24 hours (three 8 hour shifts).
 - 3b. One-story bldg, similar to item 3a above and connected to it, which contained all clothing for the brigade. About 3 NCO's worked here.
 - 3c. Black wooden one-story bldg, about 15 x 10 m, containing amounts of ammunition for the weapons described in item 3a above.
 - 3d. Barbed wire fence, guarded by 1 guard at night.
4. Motor pool, surrounded by barbed wire fence. It was well lit at night by means of 4 searchlights, 1 in each corner. One guard was on duty there at night. The construction of the garages was terminated in 1955. The roofs were of black corrugated metal. Bldgs 4a and 4b were about 40 x 10 m and comprised 50 individual stalls for vehicles, each of which was large enough to hold 2 vehicles.

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- 4e. POL dump for Brigade, about 20 x 10 m. [redacted] No unauthorized personnel were allowed there. 50X1
- 4d. Sentry-house, 4 x 4 m. The sentry on duty checked all incoming or outgoing vehicles for papers and for mechanical condition (brake, lights, signals, etc).
5. 10th Volary Brigade NCO school. It was surrounded by barbed wire fence and had 5 wooden sentry-houses, 1 x 1 m (item 5m). The installation comprised 12 wooden barracks covered with white Eternit (see 5a through 5L), each 30 x 10 m, with black tarpaper roofs. Each bldg could house about 150 men. Most of them were empty, because each year none but the following personnel occupied this installation: about 900 recruits took three months basic training; then about 250 to 300 men out of the above group remained and took the 9-month NCO course, completing the yearly training cycle. Another 100 to 150 of the men, having completed basic training, were sent to other u/i schools, such as Dog Trainer School, Border Patrol Schools, etc., the remainder, about 450-500 recruits, were distributed throughout the Brigade.
6. Brigade carpentry workshop: a two-story bldg, 20 x 20 m, staffed by 1 officer and 5 soldiers. They made odd items out of wood for use by the Brigade, such as targets, supports for bunkers and furniture.
7. Brigade food warehouse: a 2-story bldg, 20 x 20 m, guarded from 1900 to 0400 hours by 1 guard. It contained 1 month's food supply for the entire brigade, including all its subordinate units. Personnel on duty there comprised 1 officer and 3 NCO's.
8. Brigade hospital: Formerly a hotel, this 2-story bldg, 20 x 40 m, contained 30 to 35 rooms. Border Guard medical personnel included 2 officers, 1 dental officer and 3 medical NCO's. Even major operations were performed there.
9. Brigade weapons warehouse: a 2-story bldg, 30 x 10 m, staffed by 2 officers and 2 NCO's. It contained an unknown quantity of weapons and ammunition for the brigade. This included crew-served weapons and brigade small arms. Defective weapons could be exchanged or repaired there. Source also saw gas masks and impregnated clothes there. This bldg was guarded from 1900 to 0400 by 1 guard.
10. Brigade ammunition dump. This was located in a forest about 3 km from town and was surrounded by a barbed wire fence. Inside was a second, similar barbed wire fence.
- 10a,b,c and d: Black wooden one-story huts, 10 x 20 m each. 10e was a new black 1-story brick bldg, 10 x 10 m. All five bldgs were filled to the roof with unknown amounts of explosives (tritol), AT and anti-personnel mines and bazooka shells. They were not to be used other than for an emergency or war. These bldgs were guarded 24 hours a day by 10 guards (see item 3 above) who were armed with SMG's, 2 RGL grenades and flares.
- 10f. A wooden sentry house, 4 x 4 m. There was no lighting system in this installation, which was well camouflaged by the forest.
11. Brewery, employing about 20 workers and producing 10 hectoliters of beer daily for Brigade needs.

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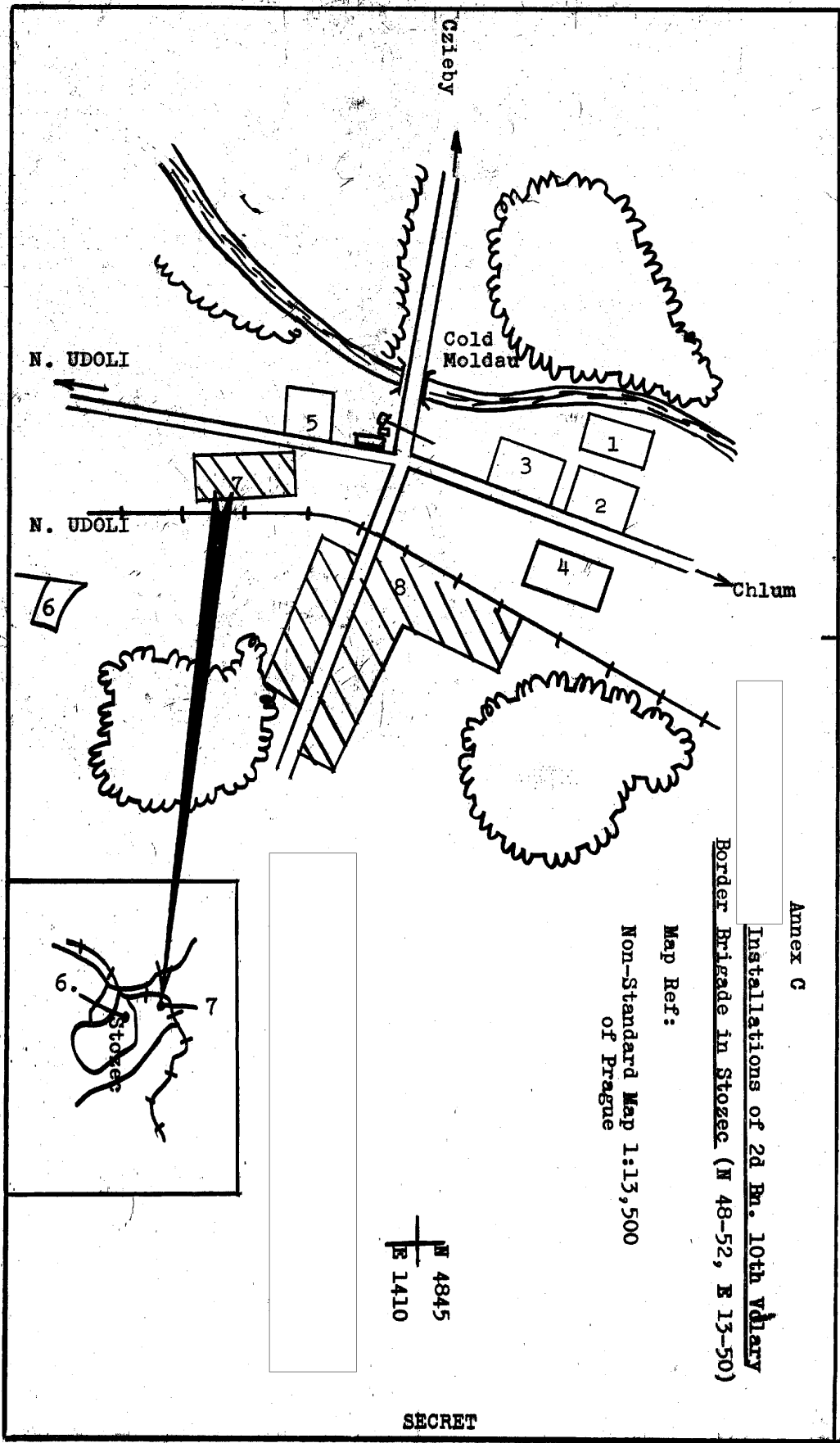
12. Hotel Lips
13. Large sawmill
14. Brigade training area: a grass covered field, 5 x 3 km. This was used as a firing range for all weapons up to and including 82 mm mortars and contained firing trenches, etc.
15. Small pistol firing range for officers, about 50 x 50 m, surrounded by a 5 m high earth wall. The range was located about 1 km from brigade headquarters.
16. Hotel Sport: a 3-story bldg with 30 guest rooms. Five brigade officers, 2. [redacted] used this hotel as a BOQ; but civilian guests were also living here.
17. Church
18. Cemetery

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-16-

Annex C

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Installations of 2d Bn, 10th Volary Border
Brigade in Stozec (N 48-52, E 13-50)

50X1

Note: All dimensions are approximate. [] the area along the border was divided into 2 zones: (1) the forbidden zone, consisting of a 600 m wide strip along the border and inside Czechoslovakia, and (2) the border zone, consisting of a 3 km wide strip, paralleling the forbidden zone and further inside Czechoslovakia. The 2d Bn was located in the border zone.

LEGEND:

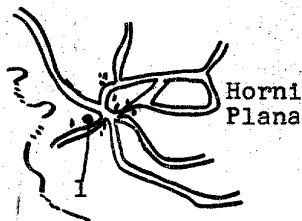
1. Hq, 2d Bn, 10th Volary Border Brig: a white 2-story brick bldg with red tiled roof, 20 x 15 m, housing the entire staff of about 7 to 8 officers.
- 2 and 3. Black wooden one-story barracks, 35 x 10 m, covered with black tarpaper roof, housing the battalion EM. The latter consisted of about 100 men.
4. Motor pool: a white 1-story brick bldg with red roof, 15 x 10 m, holding about 5 Skoda-Tudor passenger cars for the intelligence and counter-intelligence sections.
5. Kitchen and mess hall for EM: a white 2-story brick bldg with Eternit roof, 15 x 15 m. Supplies were brought here daily from Volary.
6. Firing range, 3 x 3 km. On the 4 corners of the range were 4x20 m high watch towers which were used by officers for observation purposes during training.
7. Railroad Station
8. Town houses

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Installations of the 3rd Battalion, 10th
Volary Border Brigade in Horni Plana (N 48-46, E 14-25)

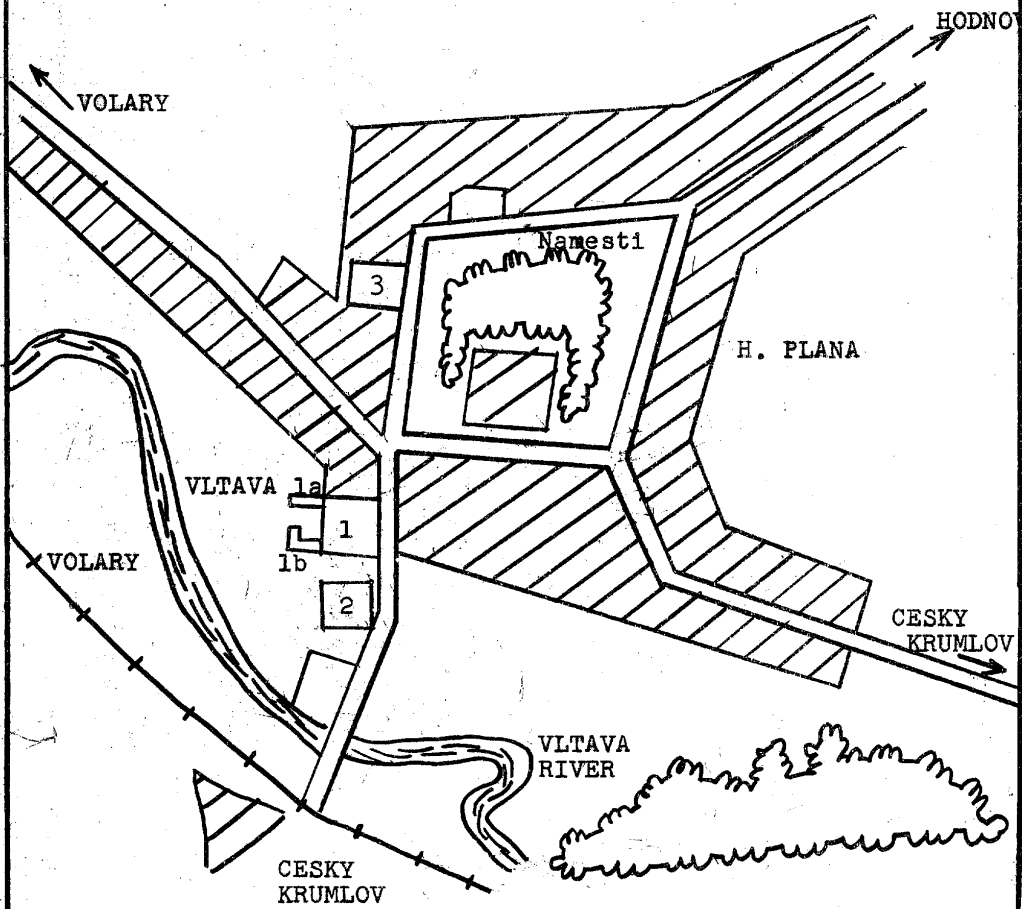
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Annex D



Map Ref:
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of Prague

N-4845
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E-1420



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ANNEX D

Installations of 3d Bn, 10th Volary Border
Brigade in Horni Plana (N 48-46, E 14-25)

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Note: This battalion was located outside of the border zone and about 500 m away from it, i.e. about 4,100 m from the border.

LEGEND:

1. Hq and Caserne of 3d Bn, 10th Volary Border Brigade. This was a red 3-story brick bldg, about 100 x 25 m, which was formerly an agricultural school. In the rear of the bldg was a yard about 40 x 40 m. This bldg housed the entire battalion personnel, about 110 officers and EM and was guarded 24 hours a day by 1 sentry.
 - 1a. Kitchen
 - 1b. Garages for from 4 to 6 Skoda Tudor vehicles
2. Hotel Vltava
3. Unidentified hotel

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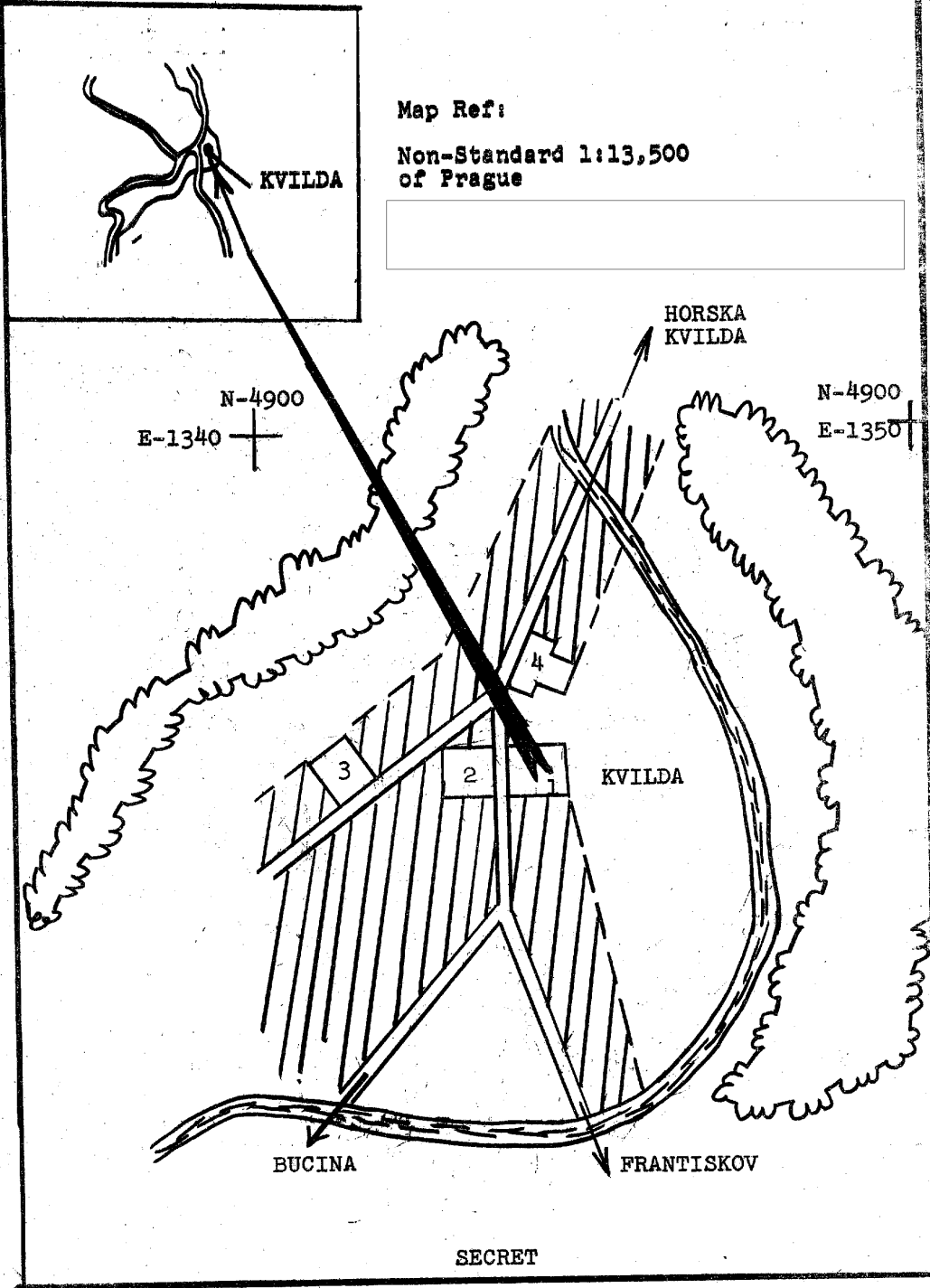
Installations of 1st Battalion, 10th Volary
Border Brigade in KVILDA (N 49-01, E 13-35)

(Not to Scale)

Annex E

Map Ref:
Non-Standard 1:13,500
of Prague

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Annex E

Installations of 1st Bn, 10th Volary Border
Brigade in Kvilda (N 49-01, E 13-35)

50X1

Note: The 1st Bn, 10th Volary Border Brig, was located outside the border zone, i.e. more than 3,600 m from the border and inside Czechoslovakia.

LEGEND:

1. Hq of 1st Bn, 10th Volary Border Brigade: a 2-story brick bldg, 30 x 20 m, housing the battalion staff of 7 to 8 officers. 50X1
50X1
2. 1st Bn Caserne or billets: a two-story brick bldg, 30 x 20 m, housing all battalion EM (from 80 to 100 men). This bldg also contained clothing and food supplies.
3. 1st Bn dispensary or hospital. The 1st battalion was the only one of the brigade with its own dispensary, because it was the one most distant from brigade headquarters in Volary. The dispensary occupied a 2-story bldg, 30 x 20 m, which had formerly been a civilian hospital. It was staffed by 1 medical officer (a captain) and 2 medical NCO's. No operations were performed here.
4. Church

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Annexes F-I and F-II

Pinpoint Location of the 20 Companies of the 10th Volary Brigade and
Sketch of Czechoslovak-West German and Czechoslovak-Austrian
Border Sector Guarded by the 20 Companies of 10th Volary Border Brig

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The 20 companies of the 10th Volary Border Brigade were usually referred to by their names. The latter were based either on the names of the villages where these companies were located or on the names of geographical landmarks in the vicinity of these companies. The numerical designations of the companies were rarely used, and then only in telephone conversations. The 3rd, 10th and 12th Companies were housed in old Czech border or customhouses. These each contained an entire company, including headquarters, billets for officers and EM, a messhall, etc. These customhouses were three-story brick buildings, about 40 x 30 m., housing about three officers and 40 to 45 EM. On top of each customhouse was an observation post for two men with a good view of the region, both toward the border and inland. Each one of these 3 companies located in the customhouses also had at its disposal 3 wooden, so-called Finnish houses or huts, located in the immediate vicinity (about 30 m) of its customhouse. These Finnish huts were about 10 x 20 m., one-story, two-family houses. They were originally intended to house officers' families, but they remained empty since most of the officers along the border did not have their families living with them. They were used either for storage or for billeting occasional inspecting officers.

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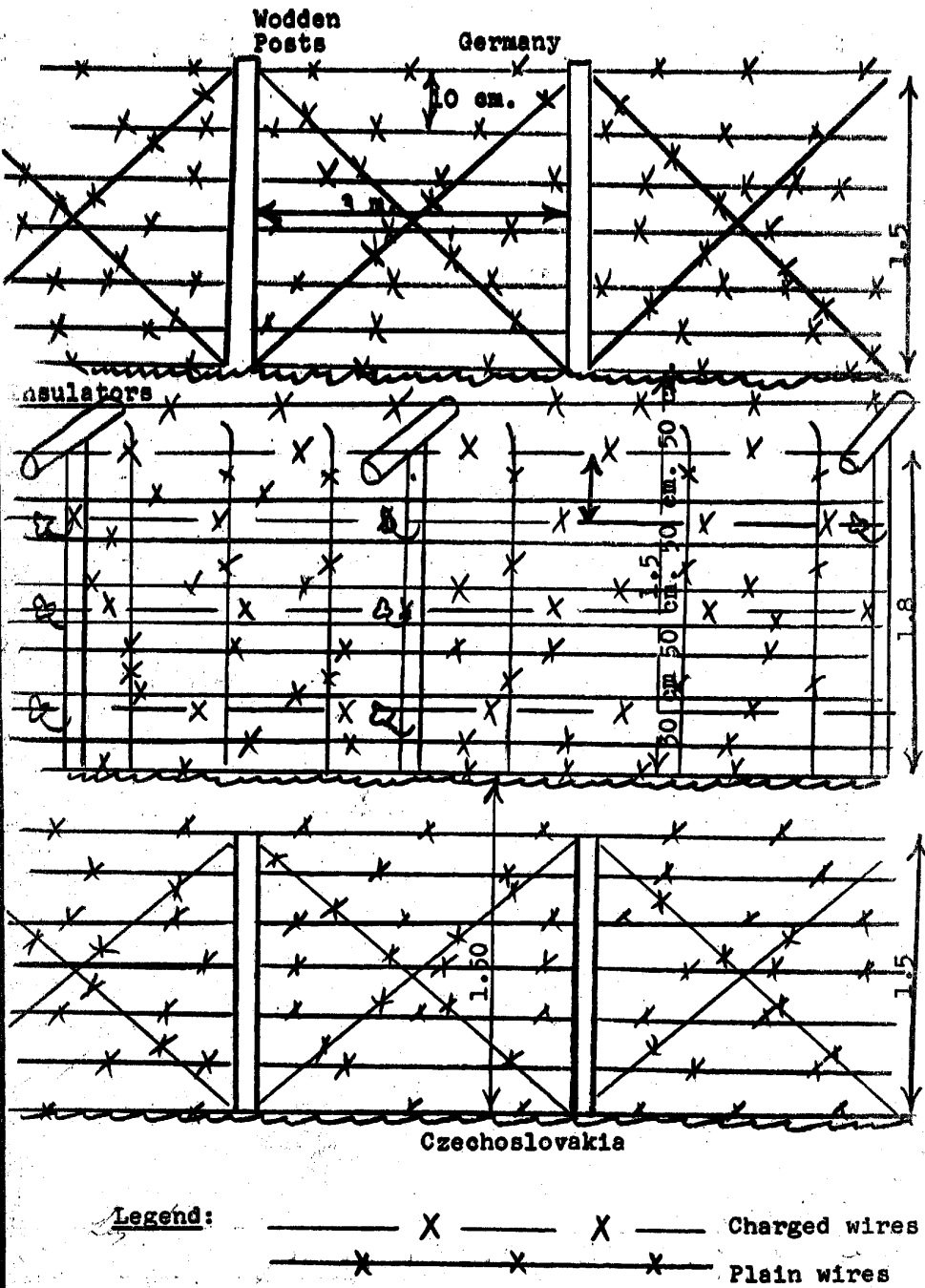
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Electrically-Charged Barbed Wire Border
Guarding Device

Annex F-III



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Annex F-III

Electrically-Charged Barbed Wire Border
Guarding Device

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Note: This triple barbed wire fence border guarding device within Czechoslovakian territory was located at a distance from the international border varying from 30 m to 3 km. As far as source knew, this device was established all along the Czech-Austrian and Czech-West German border. The 4 electrically charged barbed wires in the middle fence could only be distinguished from the other barbed wires in the fence by means of the insulators affixed to the posts along which the wires ran. [redacted] it was from 12,000 to 14,000 volts. [redacted]

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[redacted] in 1952 [redacted] brigade still used mines between the first two outside fences of the above-described triple fence. These mines were 5 km distant from one another and placed on posts 1 m high and 10 cm in diameter. They were concrete and metal mines with about 100 g of explosive each. However, the use of mines was discontinued because in the winter such mines exploded by themselves due to rain and snowfall and caused much trouble and frequent false alarms. They were replaced by small mines about 7 cm in diameter: these were buried in the ground along the border wherever visibility was poor. They were set off by a border violator stepping on them. However, their construction was faulty; the spring would become rusty and they could no longer be set off. Therefore, these mines were also discontinued, and no mines were used from then on [redacted]

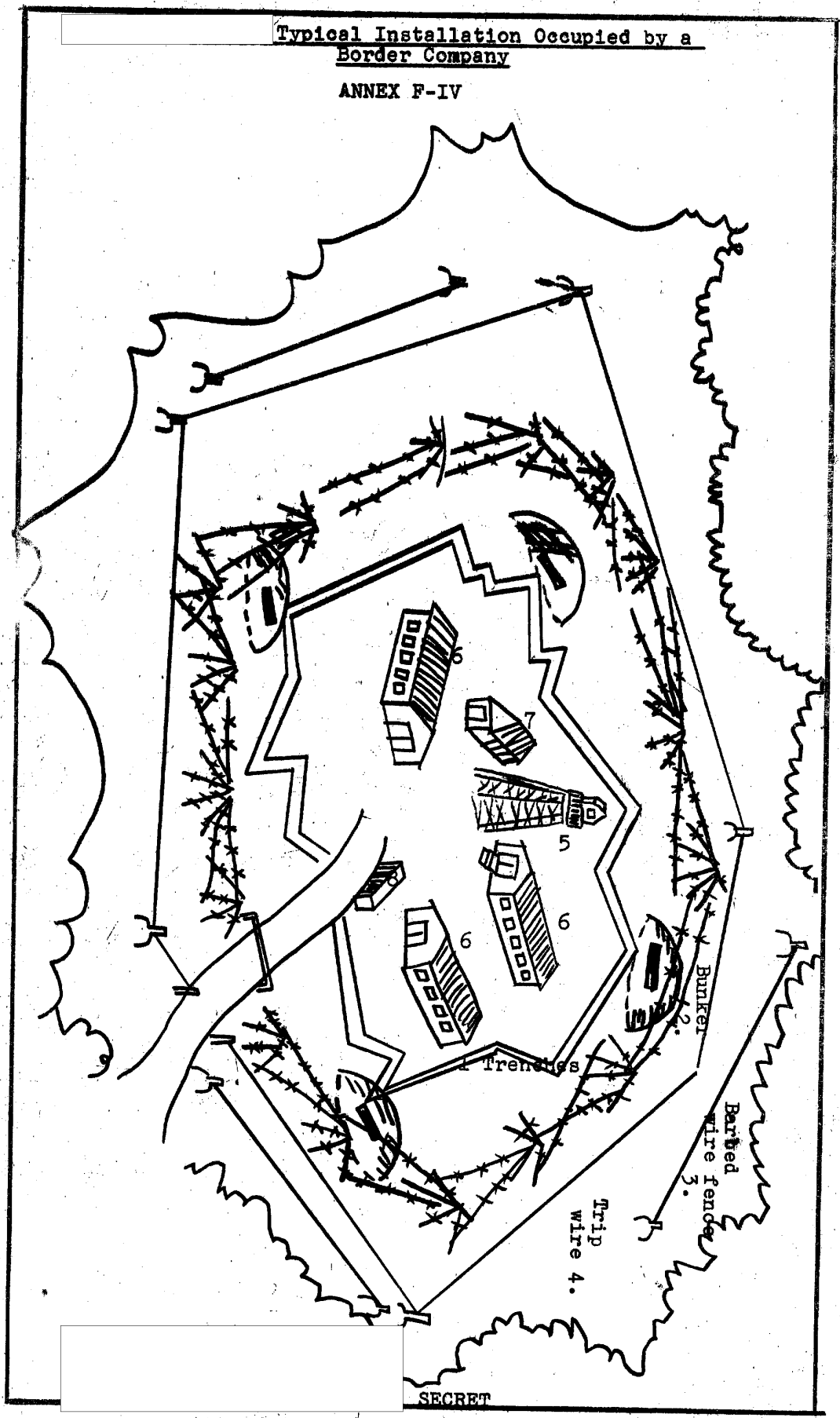
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Typical Installation Occupied by a
Border Company

ANNEX F-IV

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ANNEX F-IV

Typical Installation Occupied by a Border

50X1

Company

Notes and Legend: Each border company had three officers and 40 to 45 EM and was responsible for guarding a three to 3.5 km. sector of the border. Along this border sector were usually two to three observation towers (see Annex F-V below). Near each observation tower was a tunnel leading under the electrically-charged barbed wire fence, which allowed Border Guard personnel to crawl under the wire when necessary. Each company installation was surrounded by a circle of trenches 1.5 m. deep (see point 1), which linked four to five camouflaged bunkers (see point 2) located in strategic spots in the immediate vicinity of the company and affording a good all-around view. The bunkers and connecting trenches were surrounded by a one-meter high barbed wire fence (see point 3), in front of which was a one-half meter high wire obstacle (see point 4) setting off flares when tripped. This flare-releasing device was very simple, consisting merely of circular tubes in which the flares were placed from above. When tripped, the wires released a spring, and this in turn released a firing pin which fired the flare from below.⁶ Distances between flares varied from 100 to 500 m.

During the day there was one guard on duty. At night two guards were posted in the company area. Each company installation also had an observation tower (see point 5) manned by two guards. The three larger buildings (see point 6) were wooden huts about 30 x 10 m. The fourth smaller building (see point 7) was a small wooden stable for six to seven horses. The four to five dogs assigned to each company were kept in a small kennel near the entrance to the installation (see point 8).

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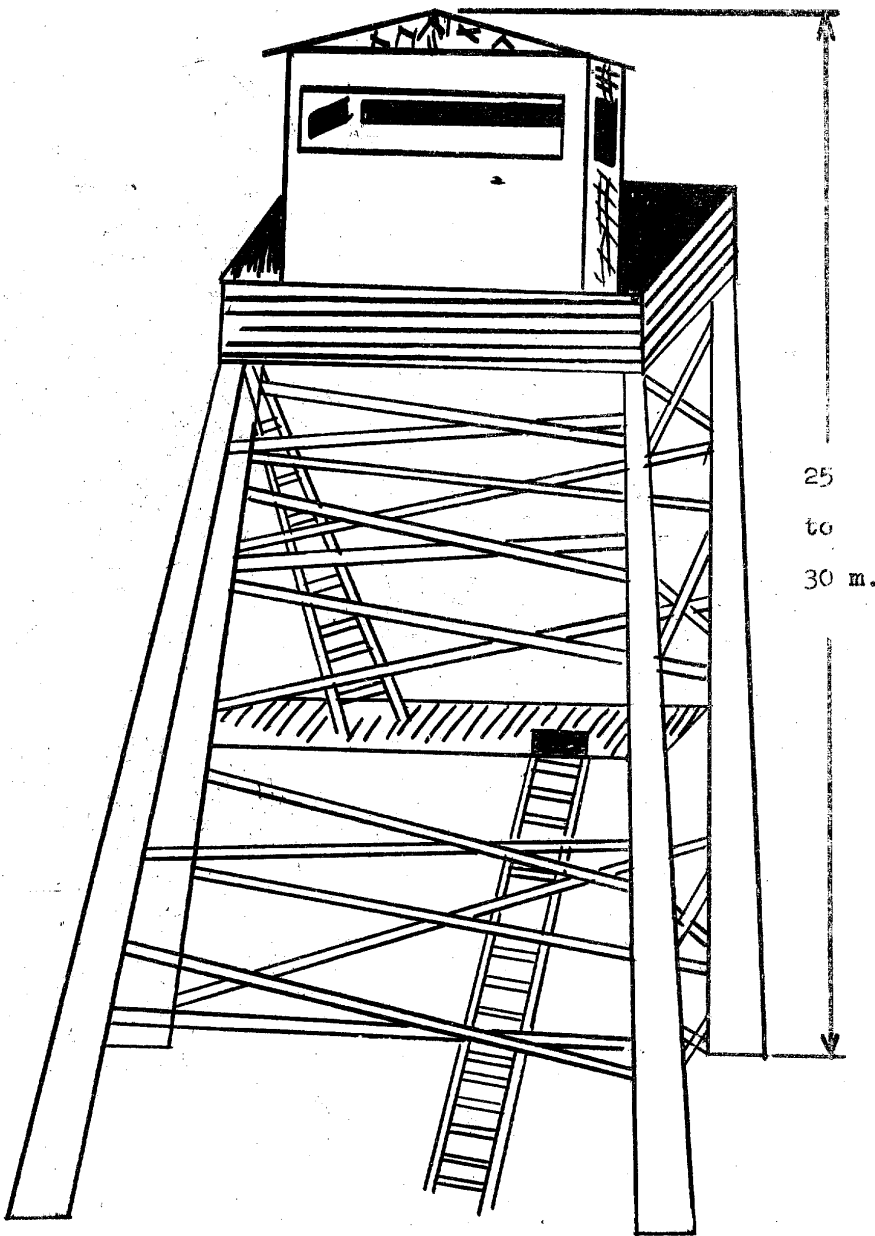
Typical Border Observation Tower

ANNEX F-V



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ANNEX F-V

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Typical Border Observation Tower

Note: Each observation tower was manned by a two-man patrol from sunrise to sunset, during hours which varied according to visibility. The towers were from 25 to 30 m. high and each was equipped with one HMG and 240 rounds. One of the tower guards, the senior BM, was armed with a SMG and 96 rounds. The second soldier, the junior member of the patrol, had a rifle with 60 rounds. Further equipment included one set of binoculars (10 x power) and a telephone connecting the tower to company headquarters.

Observation towers were located three to four meters from the electrically-charged fence (See Annex F-III) on the Czechoslovak side of the fence, and there was a small tunnel enabling guards to crawl under the fence (see notes to Annex F-IV). The two adjacent observation towers to the right and to the left were visible from each tower. In wooded areas observation towers occurred at more frequent intervals than in open country.

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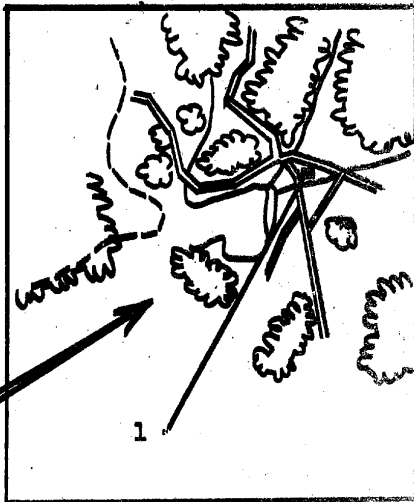
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Dog Training School of 10th Volary Border
Brigade

(Not to Scale)

ANNEX G

Map Ref:
Non-standard
1:13,500
of Prague



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E-1350

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SILNICE

STRAZNY

LENORA

N-4850

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ANNEX G

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Dog Training School of 10th Volary Border Brigade

Note: The 10th Volary Border Brigade Dog Training School occupied the caserne formerly occupied by the second battalion of the brigade. This battalion had been dissolved on 1 June 1955 (see Section A, 1 of text). The dog training school moved to this location on the very same day. Formerly the school was not established in one location; instead dog training took place at the various battalions and at brigade headquarters. The building occupied by the school (see point 1 on sketch) was a wooden, one-story, 40 x 40 m. building. The school comprised one officer (lieutenant), two NCO's, 45 EM and 45 dogs. Each EM was assigned one dog. Dogs were trained eight hours a day for border guard duty. Source has no further information on the types of dogs used, the training schedule or the length of training. After training was completed, the dogs were sent to the various companies. (Each company had four or five dogs.)

Dogs were introduced to border guard work in 1952 or 1953, and the above school represented the beginning of methodical dog training. The officer in charge of the school had been trained in the USSR from 31 January 1954 to 31 January 1955 for his dog-training duties, but source did not know any details on this Soviet school.

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